

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OIC-02 DODE-00 /057 R

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO NAC OCON

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATION OF NATO SUMMIT

ATHENS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN - DELIVER OPENING
OF BUSINESS

1. AT APRIL 25 SPC DISCUSSIONS, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO
PRESS US PREFERENCE ON ORGANIZATION OF NATO SUMMIT (STATE
92145), AND PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO:

A. TIMEFRAME. NOW THAT ALLIES ARE AWARE WE PREFER TO HAVE
SUMMIT BEGIN ON MORNING MAY 29, WE URGE THEY TAKE THAT
FACT FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THEIR PERMREPS IN NATO. YOU MIGHT FURTHER EXPLAIN THAT
OUR PREFERENCE FOR OPTION C IS BASED ON A STRONG DESIRE TO
ASSURE ADEQUATE TIME FOR BILATERALS, WHICH WILL BE A VERY
IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE SUMMIT GATHERING. OPENING SUMMIT
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MORNING OF MAY 29 WILL ASSURE PRESENCE OF PRINCIPALS, AND

THUS THEIR AVAILABILITY FOR BILATERALS IN AFTERNOON. IF SUMMIT NOT SCHEDULED TO START UNTIL AFTERNOON, THERE COULD BE AN INEVITABLE TENDENCY ON PART OF PRINCIPALS TO ARRIVE LATE IN MORNING OF 29TH, THUS LIMITING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. FYI. IF IT BECOMES CLEAR

THAT THERE CAN BE A FULL SCHEDULE OF BILATERAL TALKS MORNING OF MAY 29, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER OPTION B. END FYI.

B. ORDER OF EVENTS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON RESTRICTED SESSION. EXPERIENCE AT DECEMBER MINISTERIAL WAS MOST SATISFACTORY IN TERMS OF PROMOTING USEFUL, FRANK REVIEW OF SENSITIVE ISSUES. WE HAVE GENERALLY SAME PATTERN IN MIND FOR SUMMIT: AN INITIAL, EXTENDED RESTRICTED SESSION (AFTER CEREMONIAL OPENING), AT WHICH EACH PRINCIPAL COULD IF HE DESIRES MAKE AN INITIAL STATEMENT WHICH SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE LIMITED IN LENGTH TO TEN OR TWELVE MINUTES. WE SEE NO SPECIAL NEED TO HAVE ROUND-ROBIN OF SET SPEECHES IN SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSION, BUT WOULD CONSIDER MATTER FURTHER IF THIS WERE STRONGLY PREFERRED BY OTHER ALLIES.

C. ATTENDANCE AT RESTRICTED SESSION. WE CONTINUE STRONGLY TO PREFER A MAXIMUM OF FIVE PER SIDE, OR EVEN FOUR. WE AGREE THAT YOU SHOULD HOLD LINE ON THIS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE095082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750144-0919
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750419/aaaaarvh.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORGANIZATION OF NATO SUMMIT ATHENS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN - DELIVER OPENING
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, AORG, NATO, NAC
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006